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From Deterministic to Stochastic

75th MORSS

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Agenda

- Background
- Data
- Problem Statement
- Deterministic Model
- Partial Stochastic Model
- Full Stochastic Model
- Future
- Conclusion



Background

- Preventive Medicine Detachment Rule of Allocation was 1 Detachment per 17,000 personnel
 - We had 54 tasks with time and frequency
 - Short turn around
 - Our task was to determine if that rule was appropriate
-
- H_0 : Mean = 17,000
 - H_A : Mean \neq 17,000



Data

- 54 PM tasks with time and frequency
- Original data from contractor questionnaire unusable
- Provided by the PM SME using PMJ consensus panel
- Three formats for time and frequency
 - Single value
 - Minimum and maximum values
 - Minimum and maximum values, with a most likely value



Problem Statement

- Eliminate Point Estimates
 - Single number answer
 - No certainty in comparing to test value
- Provide Range Estimates
 - Minimum-Maximum values
 - Allows for risk decisions
- Limited data
- How can we use this limited data to provide an accurate range estimate to determine if 17,000 is within the range with an appropriate level of confidence?



Deterministic Model

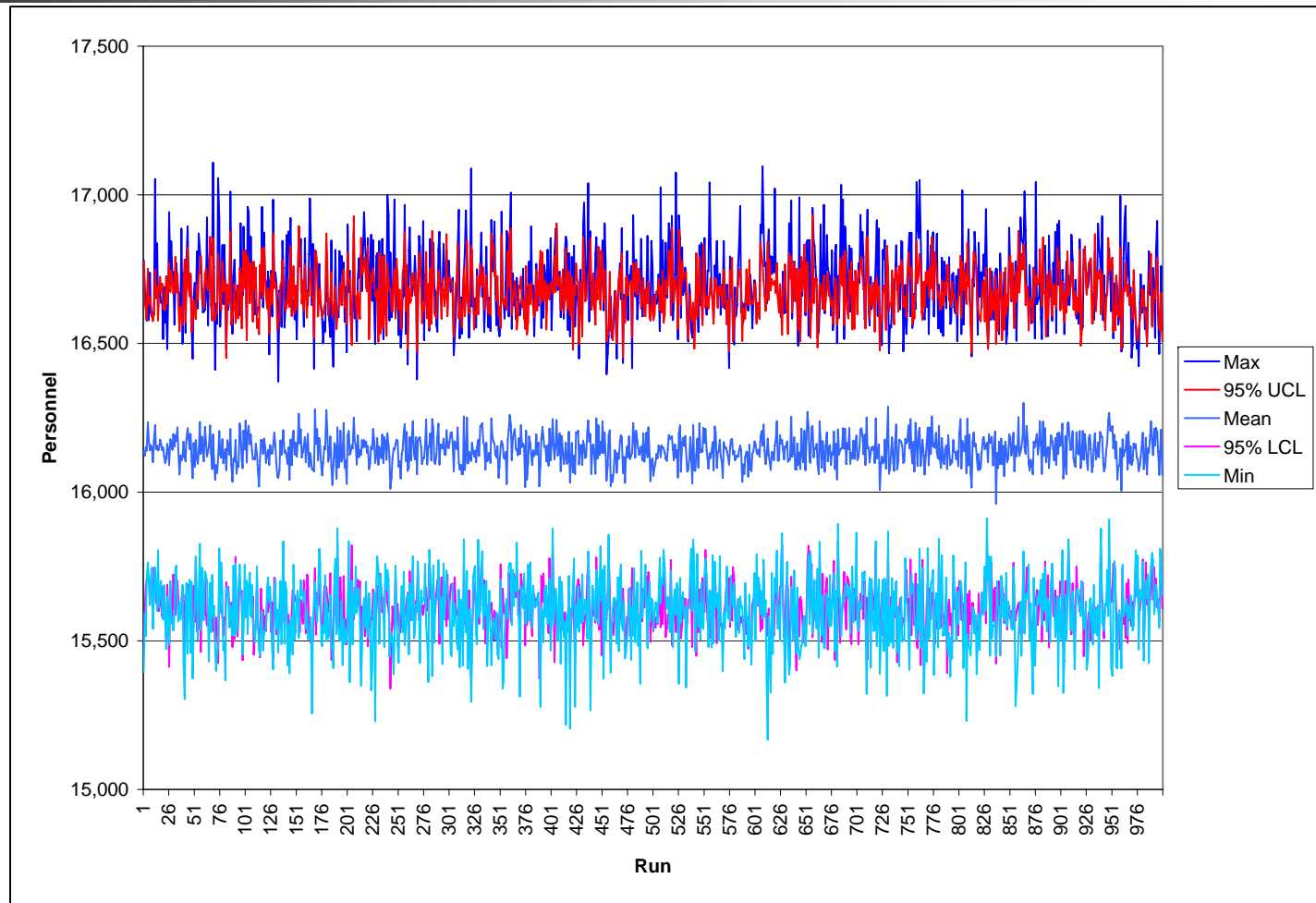
- Provides same point estimate, always
- Task times/frequencies used:
 - Actual value when single value
 - Average value when a range
 - $(\text{Min} + \text{Max}) / 2$
 - $(\text{Min} + \text{Most Likely} + \text{Max}) / 3$
- Limitation
 - No variation
- Result: 1 PM Detachment per 16,138 personnel
- No appropriate method to compare this to 17,000



Partial Stochastic Model

- Provides range estimate
- Based on
 - Actual value when single value
 - Uniform distribution between min and max
 - Triangular distribution with min, max, most likely
- Limitation
 - Only some tasks contributed to variation
- Result: 30,000 iterations, 95% confidence interval of (15606, 16678), with a mean of 16,142
- The 17,000 is outside this confidence interval, but is this a good representation.

Partial Stochastic Model – Results



Full Stochastic Model – Setup

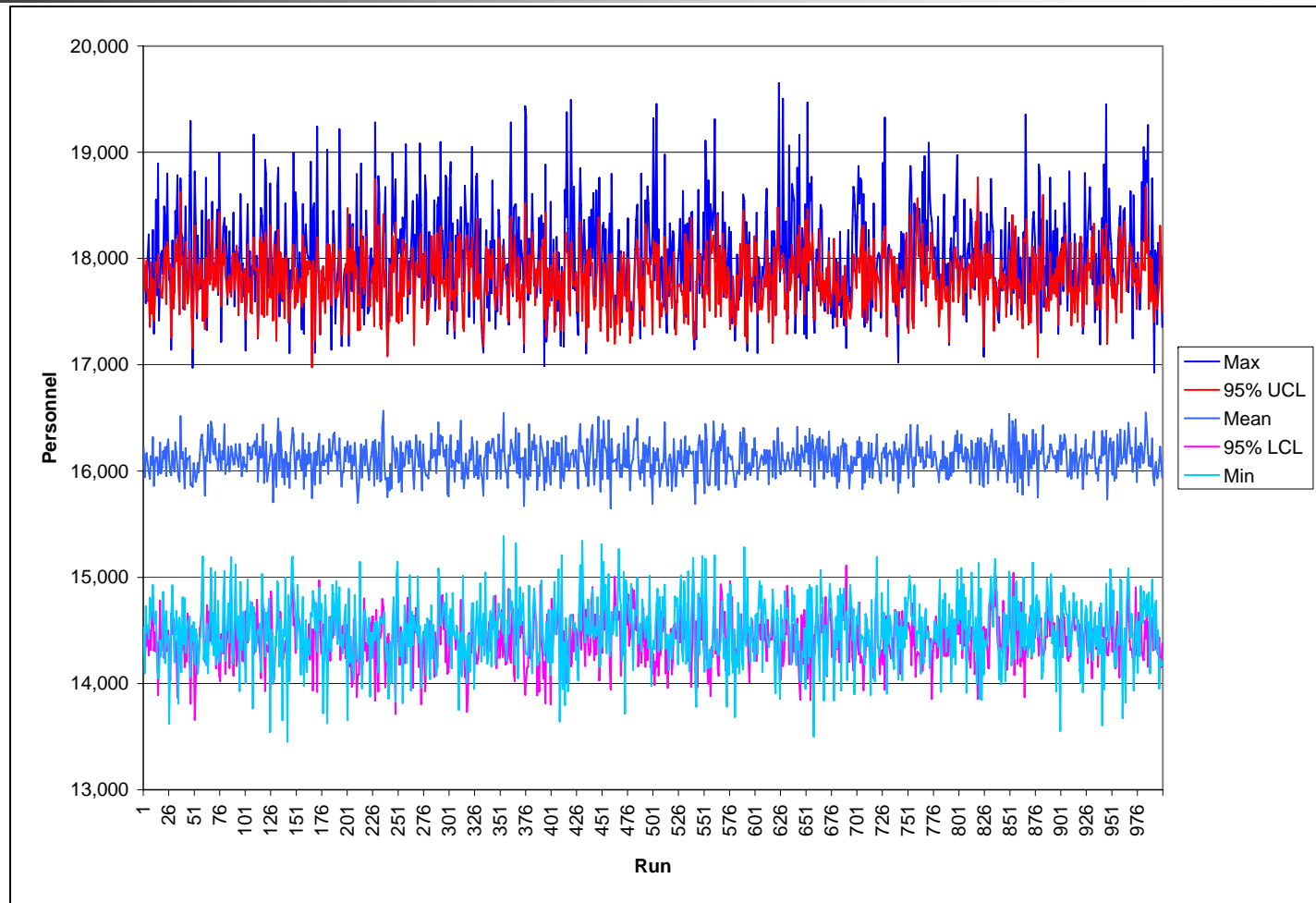
- Assumptions
 - Frequency were accurate
 - Distribution of time for all tasks was normal
 - Variation of time for all tasks was constant
- Calculations
 - Task: $\hat{\sigma}_i \approx (Max_i - Min_i) / 6$
 - Covers 99% of normal distribution
 - Task: $\hat{\mu} \approx (Min + Max) / 2$
 - Task: $CV_i = \hat{\sigma}_i / \hat{\mu}_i$
 - Composite: $E(CV) = \sum CV_i / n$
 - Task: $\hat{\sigma}_i \approx Val_i * E(CV)$
 - Task: Single values converted to ranges
 - $Min = Val - 3 (Val * E(CV))$
 - $Max = Val + 3 (Val * E(CV))$



Full Stochastic Model - Implementation

- Provides range estimate
- Based on:
 - Uniform distribution between min and max (original or calculated)
 - Triangular distribution with min, max, most likely
- Limitation
 - Some time ranges based on assumptions
- Benefit
 - All time values in the model are stochastic
- Result: 30,000 iterations, 95% confidence interval of (14410, 17824), with a mean of 16,117
- The 17,000 is within this confidence interval.

Full Stochastic Model – Results





Future

- Developing survey for PM SMEs
- Will give data to develop distributions for all task times and task frequencies
- These distributions will improve the current model



Conclusion

- As the number of stochastic variables increased, the results allowed the decision maker to better estimate the risk of the decision made.
- Selecting a value near the upper limit, accepts more risk but a lower cost (less detachments).
- Selecting a value near the lower limit, provides less risk but a higher cost (more detachments).
- Need to improve data through survey

- All models are wrong, some are useful.
-- George E. P. Box, Ph.D., *Empirical Model-Building and Response Surfaces*

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